

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method including

at a ~~first~~ device, reading a set of information from a set of resources including at least a source, ~~at least some of said first information located relatively~~ local to said first device and ~~at least some of said information obtained from an information server relatively~~ remote from said first device; ~~and~~

setting values for one or more variables ~~at least one variable~~ at said first device in response to said information; and

if said setting step changes an indication of said set of resources, re-performing the steps of reading and setting until said step of setting does not change said indication of said set of resources;

~~at a second device, reading a set of information, at least some of said information located relatively local to said second device and at least some of said information obtained from an information server relatively remote from said second device, and setting values for at least one variable at said second device in response to said information; and~~

wherein said setting step resolves ~~resolving~~ conflicts when said information from any two sources assigns two inconsistent values to any of said one or more variables ~~a single variable~~ by determining, for said any two sources ~~for said information~~, a higher priority source

and a lower priority source ; ~~wherein at least some of said information is common to both said first device and said second device.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein said information includes configuration information used at start-up by said ~~first~~ device.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, including recording said information at selected times for said ~~first~~ device; at said ~~first~~ device, reading said recorded information in addition to said set of information; and comparing said recorded information with at least some of said set of information.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 3, wherein said selected times include at each restart of said ~~first~~ device.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1 [[6]], wherein said set of resources includes at least a first file at ~~a first~~ said information server and a second file at a second information server.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1 [[6]], wherein said set of resources includes at least one file at said information server.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein said information includes a set of values for named variables, and wherein said resolving conflicts further includes parsing, from said higher priority source, an instruction relating to setting said variable; and performing said instruction from said higher priority source.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 9, wherein said instruction has a syntactic form indicating one or more of the following operations:

replacing a value from said lower priority source with a value from said higher priority source, or

appending a value from said higher priority source to a value from said lower priority source.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus including
at least one information server;

a ~~first device relatively remote from said information server, said first device~~ including memory having computer programs and data structures capable of being performed by said ~~first device to perform steps of reading read~~ a set of information from a set of resources including at least a source ~~at least some of said information located relatively local to said first device and at least some of said information obtained from said information server, setting and to set values for one or more variables at least one variable at said first device in response to said information, and if said setting step changes an indication of said set of resources, re-performing said steps of reading and setting until said step of setting does not change said indication of said set of resources;~~

~~a second device relatively remote from said information server, said second device including memory having computer programs and data structures capable of being performed by said second device to read a set of information, at least some of said information located relatively local to said second device and at least some of said information obtained from said information server, and to set values for at least one variable at said second device in response to said information; wherein at least some of said information is common to both said first device and said second device; and~~

wherein said setting step resolves conflicts when said information from any two sources assigns two inconsistent values to any of said one or more variables ~~a single variable are resolved by determining, for said any two sources for said information, a higher priority said source and a lower priority said source.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein said memory at said ~~first~~ device includes computer programs and data structures that when performed use said information at start-up by said ~~first~~ device.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, said ~~first~~ device including memory having a record of said information at some past time;
memory including computer programs and data structures capable of being performed by said ~~first~~ device to compare said recorded information with at least some of said set of information.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A device including a processor and memory, said memory having computer programs and data structures capable of being performed by said processor

to couple said device to an information server using a communication link;

to read a set of configuration information from a set of resources including at least a source, ~~wherein at least some of said configuration information is located relatively local to said device and at least some of said configuration information is located at said information server;~~

~~to resolve conflicts when said configuration information assigns two inconsistent values to a single variable by determining, for any two sources for said configuration information, a higher priority said source and a lower priority said source; and~~

to set values for one or more variables ~~at least one variable~~ at said device in response to said configuration information, said configuration information being used at start-up by said device; and

if setting said values changes an indication of said set of resources, to re-perform reading said set of configuration information and setting of said values until said setting of said values does not change said indication of said set of resources;

wherein said setting of said values resolves ~~to resolve~~ conflicts when said configuration information from any two sources assigns two inconsistent values to any of said one or more variables ~~a single variable~~ by determining, for said any two sources ~~for said configuration information~~, a higher priority said source and a lower priority said source.

16. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 15, including
memory having a record of said information at some past time;
wherein said computer programs and data structures are capable of being
performed by said processor to compare said recorded information with at least some of said set
of information.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein said set of resources ~~are said set of information~~ is disposed at a sequence of locations to be read by said ~~first~~ device.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method as in claim 18, ~~including at a first device, reading a set of information, at least some of said first information located relatively local to said first device and at least some of said information obtained from an information server relatively remote from said first device, and setting values for at least one variable at said first device in response to said information; at a second device, reading a set of information, at least some of said information located relatively local to said second device and at least some of said information obtained from an information server relatively remote from said second device, and setting values for at least one variable at said second device in response to said information; and wherein at least some of said information is common to both said first device and said second device; and wherein said set of information is disposed at a sequence of locations to be read by said first device; and further including defining a relative priority for~~ said information server ~~a first and a second information server in response to a relative position of said information server~~ first and second information server in said sequence.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method as in claim 18, ~~including at a first device, reading a set of information, at least some of said first information located relatively local to said first device and at least some of said information obtained from an information server relatively remote from said first device, and setting values for at least one variable at said~~

~~first device in response to said information; at a second device, reading a set of information, at least some of said information located relatively local to said second device and at least some of said information obtained from an information server relatively remote from said second device, and setting values for at least one variable at said second device in response to said information; and wherein at least some of said information is common to both said first device and said second device; and wherein said set of information is disposed at a sequence of locations to be read by said first device; and wherein said set of information is disposed at a sequence of locations to be read by said first device; and further including selecting said sequence of locations in response to said indication of said set of resources, which is a variable settable in said setting step in response to at least one said information server.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein said set of resources are ~~said set of information is~~ disposed at a sequence of locations to be read by said first device.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus as in claim 21, ~~including at least one information server; a first device relatively remote from said information server, said first device including memory having computer programs and data structures capable of being performed by said first device to read a set of information, at least some of said information located relatively local to said first device and at least some of said information obtained from said information server, and to set values for at least one variable at said first device in response to said~~

~~information; a second device relatively remote from said information server, said second device including memory having computer programs and data structures capable of being performed by said second device to read a set of information, at least some of said information located relatively local to said second device and at least some of said information obtained from said information server, and to set values for at least one variable at said second device in response to said information; wherein at least some of said information is common to both said first device and said second device; wherein said set of information is disposed at a sequence of locations to be read by said first device; and wherein a relative priority is defined for said information server a first and a second information server in response to a relative position of said information server first and second information server in said sequence.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The An apparatus as in claim 21, including at least one
~~information server; a first device relatively remote from said information server, said first device including memory having computer programs and data structures capable of being performed by said first device to read a set of information, at least some of said information located relatively local to said first device and at least some of said information obtained from said information server, and to set values for at least one variable at said first device in response to said information; a second device relatively remote from said information server, said second device including memory having computer programs and data structures capable of being performed by said second device to read a set of information, at least some of said information located relatively local to said second device and at least some of said information obtained from said~~

~~information server, and to set values for at least one variable at said second device in response to said information; wherein at least some of said information is common to both said first device and said second device; wherein said set of information is disposed at a sequence of locations to be read by said first device; and wherein said sequence of locations is selected in response to said indication of said set of resources, which is a variable settable in said setting step in response to at least one said information server.~~

Claims 24 to 38 (Cancelled)